



# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Navy to Hold Public Open House Scoping Meetings to Discuss Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Growler Operations at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island**

The Navy plans three public scoping meetings early next month to obtain public input on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Wash. The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing EA-18G Growler airfield operations at NAS Whidbey Island's Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Coupeville, including the proposed introduction of two additional expeditionary Electronic Attack (VAQ) squadrons and the addition of aircraft to the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS).

The scoping process will be used to identify community concerns and local issues to be addressed in the EIS. As part of the public involvement during scoping the Navy will host three open house information sessions on the following dates: Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at Coupeville High School (Commons Area), 501 South Main Street, Coupeville, Wash.; Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at Oak Harbor High School (Student Union Building), 1 Wildcat Way, Oak Harbor, Wash.; and Thursday, December 5, 2013 at Anacortes Middle School (Cafeteria), 2202 M Avenue, Anacortes, Wash. 98221. All of these meetings will take place from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

The meetings will be conducted in an open house format with informational displays and materials available for public review. There will be no formal presentations. Navy staff will be present to answer general questions on the proposed action and the EIS process.

Public input is very important to the process. Members of the public are encouraged to provide scoping comments to ensure the Navy is aware of all of the issues and factors to be addressed in the EIS. Scoping comments will be accepted in writing or dictated to a stenographer at these public meetings. Members of the public may also submit comments via mail to: EA-18G EIS Project Manager (Code EV21/SS); Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic, 6506 Hampton Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23508. Comments may also be submitted to the project website: <http://www.whidbeyeis.com>. Comments will be accepted throughout the scoping period, which concludes January 3, 2014.

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**NOTICE TO MEDIA:** Media outlets are invited to participate in a media availability starting at 1 p.m. on Monday, December 2. Media will be able to interview subject matter experts about the EIS, and obtain b-roll and photographs of aircraft. Interested media should contact NAS Whidbey Island PAO Mr. Mike Welding at (360) 257-5641 no later than close of business Friday, November 29.